

Case 275***Camelus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Mammalia, Artiodactyla): proposed designation of *Camelus bactrianus* Linnaeus, 1758 as type species**

N. Erridge

Formerly of the Secretariat, International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

Abstract. The purpose of this application is the designation of *Camelus bactrianus* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species of the camel genus *Camelus* Linnaeus, 1758, to accord with modern usage; a 1902 designation of *C. dromedarius* Linnaeus, 1758 has never been adopted.

1. Linnaeus (1758, p. 65) erected the genus *Camelus* with four included species: *C. dromedarius*, *C. bactrianus*, *C. glama* and *C. pacos*. Hay (1902, p. 680) designated *C. dromedarius* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species.

2. In 1910 (*Opinions and Declarations rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature* (facsimile issue), **1B**: 31–39) the Commission introduced fixation of type species by 'Linnaean tautonymy' in Opinion 16. This Opinion contained a misleading statement suggesting that the type species of *Camelus* was in fact *C. bactrianus* (p. 37). However, Hay's (1902) designation was not formally set aside and no other designation was made by the Commission.

3. In 1947 Francis Hemming (the then Secretary of the Commission) issued editorial notes on Opinion 16 (*Opinions and Declarations*. . . **1A**: 272–302) in which he explained (pp. 282–283) that the previous arguments concerning the type species designation for *Camelus* Linnaeus, 1758 were incorrect since the pre-Linnaean word '*Camelus*' was applied in the *Systema Naturae* to both *bactrianus* and *dromedarius* (see Art. 68e(i)). He recommended that a formal type designation should be made. Despite this, subsequent workers (e.g. Ellerman & Morrison-Scott (1951, p. 348)) have interpreted Opinion 16 as constituting a valid type designation of *bactrianus* Linnaeus, 1758 for *Camelus*, and this has since become the accepted type species, ignoring Hay's (1902) designation of *C. dromedarius*.

4. To preserve current usage the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all previous designations of type species for the nominal genus *Camelus* Linnaeus, 1758 and to designate *Camelus bactrianus* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic names in Zoology the name *Camelus* Linnaeus, 1758 (gender: masculine), type species by designation in (1) above, *Camelus bactrianus* Linnaeus, 1758;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *bactrianus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Camelus bactrianus* (specific name of the type species of *Camelus* Linnaeus, 1758).

References

- Ellerman, J. R. & Morrison-Scott, T. C. S. 1951. *Checklist of Palaearctic and Indian Mammals, 1758 to 1946*. 810 pp. Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History), London.
- Hay, O. P. 1902. Bibliography and Catalogue of the fossil Vertebrata of North America. *Bulletin of the United States Geological Survey*, 179: 1-868.
- Linnaeus, C. 1758. *Systema Naturae*, ed. 10, vol. 1. 824 pp. Salvii, Holmiae.